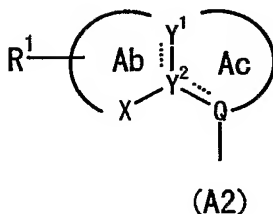
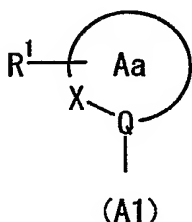


CLAIMS

1. A compound represented by the formula:



wherein, A is a group represented by the formula (A1) or
5 (A2):



wherein, ring Aa is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Q and X, and may be
10 further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R¹;

ring Ab is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y¹, Y² and X, and may be
15 further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R¹;

ring Ac is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y¹, Y² and Q, and may be
20 substituted with one or more substituents;

R¹ is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted cyclic amino, a

substituted hydroxy, a substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, or an optionally substituted sulfonyl;

X is carbonyl, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or -SO₂- ;

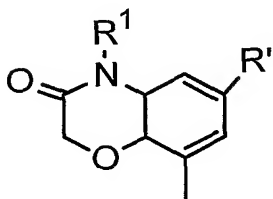
5 Y¹, Y² and Q are independently optionally substituted carbon or nitrogen;

... is a single or double bond ;

10 W is a bond, an optionally substituted methylene, an optionally substituted ethylene, an optionally substituted imino, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or -SO₂- ;

Ar is an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl;

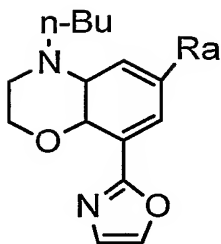
provided that when the group represented by the formula (A2) is a group represented by the formula:



15 wherein R' is hydrogen, chloro or an optionally substituted alkoxy and R¹ is as defined above; and W is a bond, then Ar is not thiazolyl substituted with one or two substituents or condensed with dihydroimidazole;

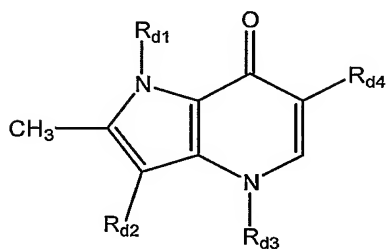
20 and excluding the following compounds:

(i) a compound represented by the formula:



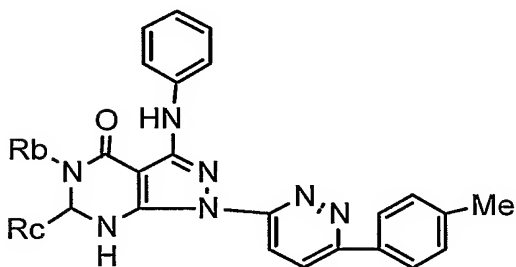
wherein Ra is a substituted carbamoyl,

(ii) a compound represented by the formula:



5 wherein Rd1 and Rd3 is each hydrocarbyl, Rd2 and Rd4 is each carboxy optionally substituted with hydrocarbyl,

(iii) a compound represented by the formula:



10 wherein Rb is hydrogen, amino or phenyl, Rc is C₁₋₄ alkyl, a substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl,

(iv) ethyl 4-(6-chloro-2,2,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-8-yl)-6-propyl-2,4-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine-5-carboxylate, 7-methoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 8-methoxy-3-(4-

15 methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 4-(8-

benzyl-4-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-6-yl)-2,4-dioxobutanoic acid, ethyl 1,7-dimethyl-4-oxo-3,5-diphenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinazoline-6-carboxylate, 1-cyclobutyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-4-oxo-5-phenoxy-
5 1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 1-cyclopropyl-7-(2,6-dimethylpyridin-4-yl)-6,8-difluoro-4-oxo-5-(phenylthio)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 1-ethyl-8-methoxy-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 1-cyclopropyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-4-oxo-5-
10 (phenylthio)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 4,6-dimethyl-8-(4-methyl-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 4,6-dimethyl-8-(6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 2,2,4-trimethyl-8-(6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 8-chloro-1-methyl-4-oxo-
15 5-phenyl-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 8-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)sulfinyl]-4-methyl-2-phenylphthalazin-1(2H)-one, 3-[(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)amino]-6-methyl-1,7-dihydro-4H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-one, 6-(4-bromophenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-7-oxo-6,7-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidine-3-carbonitrile, 3,6-dibenzyl-1-cyclopentyl-1,7-dihydro-4H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-one, methyl (6-tert-butoxy-4-oxo-1,3-diphenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-5-

yl)acetate, 1,3,6-trimethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4(3H,7H)-dione, ethyl 4-({2-[(2,2-dimethylpropanoyl)amino]-6-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl}thio)benzoate and methyl 4-
5 {2-[2-amino-7-benzyl-3-(isopropoxymethyl)-4-oxo-4,7-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]vinyl}benzoate;
or a salt thereof.

2. A prodrug of the compound according to claim 1.

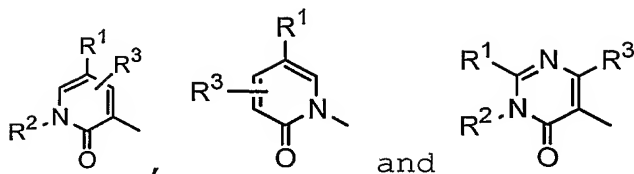
3. The compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a
10 group represented by the formula (A1).

4. The compound according to claim 3 wherein ring Aa is a 5- or 6- membered unsaturated nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a
15 position other than Q and X, and which may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R¹.

5. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is an optionally substituted branched C₃₋₁₀ alkyl or an optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀ aryl.

20 6. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is a substituted amino or an optionally substituted cyclic amino.

7. The compound according to claim 3 wherein the group represented by the formula (A1) is a group represented by the formula selected from



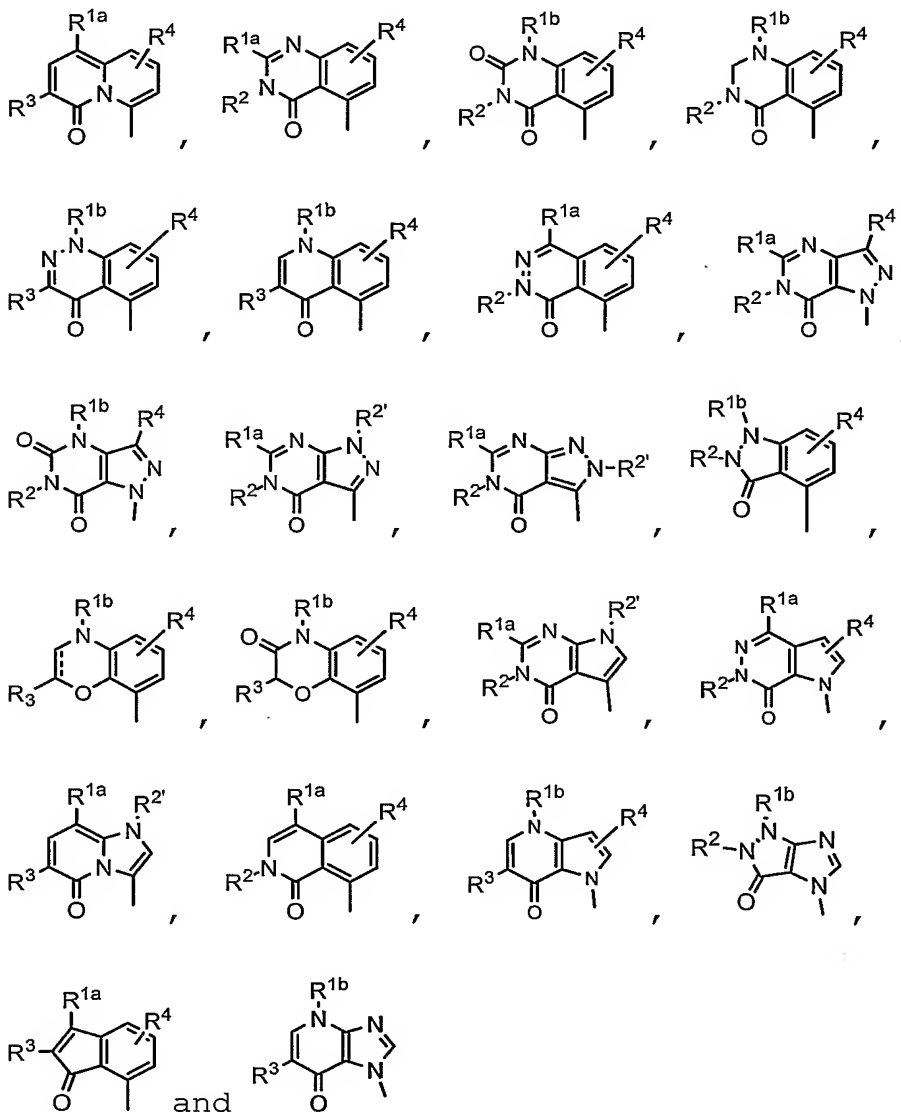
wherein, R^1 is as defined in claim 1; R^2 is hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, an optionally substituted carboxy, or an optionally substituted acyl; and
 5 R^3 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, an optionally substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted carboxy, an optionally substituted phosphoryl, an optionally substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, an optionally substituted sulfonyl or
 10 acyl.

8. The compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a group represented by the formula (A2).

9. The compound according to claim 1 wherein ring Ab
 15 is a 5- or 6- membered saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1 , Y^2 and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in
 20 addition to R^1 ; ring Ac is a 5- or 6- membered unsaturated ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1 , Y^2 and Q, and may be substituted with one or more

substituents.

10. The compound according to claim 1 wherein the group represented by the formula (A2) is a group represented by the formula selected from



wherein R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted cyclic amino, a substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted acyl, a

substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl,
or an optionally substituted sulfonyl; R^{1b} is an optionally
substituted hydrocarbyl or an optionally substituted acyl;
R² and R^{2'} are independently hydrogen, an optionally
5 substituted hydrocarbyl, an optionally substituted carboxy,
or an optionally substituted acyl;

R³ and R⁴ are independently hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro,
an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, an optionally
substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydroxy, an
10 optionally substituted carboxy, an optionally substituted
phosphoryl, an optionally substituted sulfanyl, an
optionally substituted sulfinyl, an optionally substituted
sulfonyl or acyl, and

... is as defined in claim 1.

15 11. The compound according to claim 1 wherein W is a
bond, an optionally substituted methylene, an optionally
substituted ethylene, or an optionally substituted imino.

12. The compound according to claim 1 wherein W is a
bond.

20 13. The compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar is
an optionally substituted phenyl, an optionally substituted
pyridyl or an optionally substituted pyrimidinyl.

14. The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is
carbonyl.

25 15. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the

compound is 3-(2,4-Dimethylphenyl)-6-dipropylamino-1,5-dimethyl-1,5-dihydro-4*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*d*]pyrimidin-4-one,
5-(2,4-Dimethylphenyl)-3-methyl-1-(1-propylbutyl)quinolin-4(1*H*)-one,

1-(Dipropylamino)-6-mesityl-3-methyl-4*H*-quinolizin-4-one,
2-(Dipropylamino)-5-mesityl-3,7-dimethyl-3,7-dihydro-4*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-4-one,

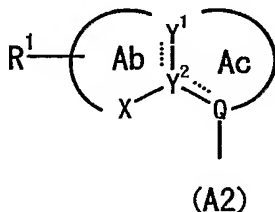
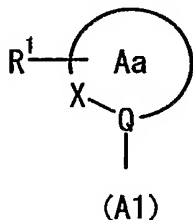
1-(2,4-Dimethylphenyl)-4-(1-ethylpropoxy)-6-methyl-1,6-dihydro-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyridazin-7-one,

5-Mesityl-3-methyl-1-(1-propylbutyl)cinnolin-4(1*H*)-one, or
1-(1-ethylpropyl)-4-mesityl-2-methyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-indazol-3-one.

16. A method for treating or preventing a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, A is a group represented by the formula (A1) or (A2):



wherein, ring Aa is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur

and nitrogen at a position other than Q and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R¹; ring Ab is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y¹, Y² and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R¹; ring Ac is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y¹, Y² and Q, and may be substituted with one or more substituents; R¹ is an optionally substituted alkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted cyclic amino, a substituted hydroxy, a substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, or an optionally substituted sulfonyl; X is carbonyl, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or -SO₂-; Y¹, Y² and Q are independently optionally substituted carbon or nitrogen; · · · is a single or double bond;

W is a bond, an optionally substituted methylene, an optionally substituted ethylene, an optionally substituted imino, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or -SO₂-;

Ar is an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl;

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein the disease being treated or prevented is selected from affective disorder, depression or anxiety.

18. A medicine comprising the compound according to claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

19. The medicine according to claim 18 which is a corticotropin releasing factor antagonist.

20. The medicine according to claim 18 which is an agent for treating or preventing affective disorder, depression or anxiety.

21. Use of the compound according to claim 1 or a prodrug thereof for manufacturing an agent for preventing or treating affective disorder, depression or anxiety.